

ABSTRACT

5        METHOD SYSTEM AND PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR DATA SEARCHING

A method and apparatus for searching data to locate a portion identified by a search query. The data may comprise text files in a database. The search query comprises two or more data fragments expected to be contained in the portion of data 10 being sought and in any order. The method comprises receiving the data fragments and searching the data to locate matches between the data and the respective data fragments. Any overlapping matches are discriminated and replaced by an iterative search process until there is found a minimal portion of the data containing all of the data fragments without overlaps, the term minimal meaning a portion with only one complete set of the 15 data fragments (though some but not all can be duplicated). The identified portion of text can be highlighted in a display of the data.